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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,879	11/05/2001	Patricia M. Savu	56612US003	7640
32692	7590	11/22/2005	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			NILAND, PATRICK DENNIS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1714	

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/992,879	Applicant(s) SAVU ET AL.	
	Examiner Patrick D. Niland	Art Unit 1714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,7,8,12 and 14-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,9-11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/14/02 / 04/17/02 / 06/19/02 / 08/16/02</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1714

1. Applicant's election without traverse of group I, claims 1-13 and the imide and ammonium structures depicted in the election of 7/8/05 on which claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13 are generic in the reply filed on 7/8/05 is acknowledged. Claims 5, 7-8, 12, and 14-37 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the teachings of US Pat. No. 5744295 Pitt et al., US Pat. No. 5472455 Mehreteab et al, and US Pat. No. 6319428 Michot et al..

The anions and cations of the instant claims are known for use in surfactant and conductive compounds known in the art but the prior art does not teach the compounds of the instant claims in which these cations and anions are used in the same compound. By virtue of being conductive/ionic, these compounds will necessarily be antistatic for reasons clear to the ordinary skilled artisan. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the instantly claimed combination of anions and cations in a single compound because such a combination would have been expected to give the benefits taught by Mehreteab, Pitt et al., and Michot et al. The resulting compound would have been expected to possess the electric properties of the instantly claimed imide, including the delocalized anionic load and its associated benefits, as taught by the abstract; column 2, lines 8-67, particularly 51-53; column 3, lines 1-15 and 50-61; column 8, lines 20-45, particularly 31-32; and the remainder

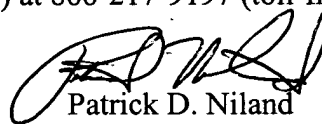
Art Unit: 1714

of Michot et al., the properties of the instantly claimed ammonium cations, including the antistatic properties disclosed by Pitt, the surfactant properties of the obvious HLB containing ammonium polyether, discussed at the abstract; column 1, lines 14-40; column 2, lines 13-67; column 3, lines 1-67; column 5, lines 33-51 which shows surfactants to be desirable in enhancing conductivity; and the remainder of Pitt et al., and the improved surfactant properties obtained in combining anionic and cationic surfactants. Due to their obvious HLBs, each of the instantly claimed anions and cations are surfactants.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick D. Niland whose telephone number is 571-272-1121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 10 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Patrick D. Niland
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714